

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

-----X

June 9, 2009  
Start: 11:30 am  
Recess: 12:00 pm

HELD AT:                   Hearing Room  
                              250 Broadway, 14th Floor

B E F O R E:                   THOMAS WHITE, JR.  
                                  Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
                              Alan J. Gerson  
                              Albert Vann  
                              David I. Weprin  
                              Annabel Palma  
                              Kenneth Mitchell  
                              David Yassky  
                              Letitia James

CHAIRPERSON WHITE: Good morning.

My name is Thomas White Jr., Chair of the Economic Development Committee. The purpose is a follow-up to voting on Intro 940. We had a hearing on June 4th, last Thursday. The testimony was heard. I want to know if there is any un-readiness on the part of the Council Members in terms of voting. Council Member Gerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I am ready to vote, but I do want to make a statement for the record. First of all, Mr. Chair, I want to thank you for your attention and your leadership on this issue. Because of the way you conducted this issue, we were able to enhance the development which this bill will effectuate by expanding the boundary of the Chinatown/Lower East Side Empire Zone. We are enhancing that, though not in the bill, but based on my discussions with the Economic Development Corporation of the City of New York and their commitments, we are going to collectively with EDC in the lead take two very important steps which will enhance the economy of the existing Chinatown/Lower East Side Enterprise Zone and the

1  
2 entire city. We will continue and expedite the  
3 process of assessing the feasibility of  
4 establishing an Asian Pacific trade center in the  
5 Chinatown/Lower East Side Empire Zone or its  
6 vicinity. Preliminary conversations with EDC have  
7 taken place and those will be followed up on and  
8 enhanced with an expedited process involving the  
9 proponents to date, EDC, my office, other  
10 interested parties, with the aim of assessing the  
11 feasibility and coming up with a roadmap assuming  
12 some feasibility is found, as I am confident will  
13 be the case. Proceeding then to the development  
14 and implementation phase of an Asian Pacific trade  
15 zone, which will be a wonderful benefit. Secondly  
16 and finally, with respect to the enhancements  
17 negotiated since the last hearing, the Economic  
18 Development Corporation in conjunction with my  
19 office, and of course, Mr. Chair, all of this will  
20 be done in conjunction with you and this  
21 committee, will convene a forum involving  
22 scientists, academics, economic development  
23 experts, community leaders, and other appropriate  
24 persons to review and begin a process of assessing  
25 and implementing strategies for anchoring non-

1  
2 biotech science in the City of New York and  
3 specifically in Lower Manhattan which includes the  
4 Chinatown/Lower East Side Empire Zone and also  
5 includes Governor's Island. This bill that we  
6 will vote on will enhance the position of biotech  
7 in our city and specifically in the areas which  
8 are now being added to the zone. As we do that,  
9 we want to be certain that we do everything we can  
10 to make the city a center for other science and  
11 other technology. There are many wonderful ideas,  
12 which in the interest of time I won't review at  
13 this setting. The Economic Development  
14 Corporation will convene the appropriate  
15 conference and meeting and panel to begin the  
16 process of strategizing, as we've done for  
17 biotech, other tech, be it environmental science,  
18 robotics, nanotech or anything else through any  
19 number of means. So we look forward to those  
20 exciting steps forward. With that, Mr. Chair, I  
21 support this bill. This comes in addition to all  
22 of the other commitments, which include job fairs  
23 and recruitments within the Chinatown/Lower East  
24 Side Enterprise Zone for new jobs that we expect  
25 this expansion will create elsewhere which will

1  
2 benefit a very needy population. Again, of  
3 course, all of this will benefit the place of  
4 biotech in our city and strengthen our city as a  
5 center of science and technology. Therefore, Mr.  
6 Chair, I intend to vote yes with all of these and  
7 I won't say conditions, but with all of these  
8 enhancements. Thank you very much. I will say  
9 conditions, with all of these conditions. Thank  
10 you very much, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON WHITE: Thank you very  
12 much. Haberman, Counsel?

13 JEFFREY HABERMAN: There are  
14 actually two items being voted on today. The  
15 second item is a Preconsidered Resolution by which  
16 an environmental review is adopted. In 2001 there  
17 was an environmental impact statement prepared for  
18 the development of the East River Science Park.  
19 Because of some changes to the project and changes  
20 in the general area with the passage of time, the  
21 Mayor's Office undertook an environmental analysis  
22 to determine whether or not a supplemental  
23 environmental impact statement was required. They  
24 prepared a technical memorandum, attached to which  
25 is the data in support of that technical

1  
2 memorandum. There is a Preconsidered Resolution  
3 by which that environmental analysis would be  
4 adopted. The environmental analysis led them to  
5 conclude that no supplemental environmental impact  
6 statement is required. The Preconsidered  
7 Resolution by which that technical memorandum is  
8 adopted and the bill will be coupled for a vote.

9 CHAIRPERSON WHITE: First of all,  
10 let me acknowledge those who are present, Council  
11 Member Vann, Council Member Palma, Council Member  
12 Gerson, Council Member Mitchell, and Council  
13 Member Weprin. We are now prepared to vote. Call  
14 the roll.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
16 Committee Clerk, roll calling the Committee on  
17 Economic Development. Council Member White?

18 CHAIRPERSON WHITE: Aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gerson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on  
21 both.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vann?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Weprin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

both.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Mitchell?

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on

both.

WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, both items are adopted. Council Members, please sign the committee reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WHITE: This meeting is adjourned. We'll leave the vote open for half an hour due to weather conditions.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Yassky?

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

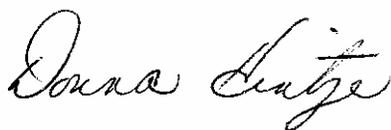
WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now currently stands at eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Hintze".

Signature

Date July 23, 2009